

Volunteer AWARD WINNERS



Volunteer naturalist Therese Fisher leads a group of youngsters on an "Oxbow Adventure" program. Therese won the Red Fox award for her outstanding service to the environmental education program, but she has also volunteered as a turtle monitor, campfire program host, nature crafts assistant and database designer.

Volunteers receive special honors

Volunteers are involved in almost every aspect of Metro's Regional Parks and Greenspaces Department. Annually, more than 1,200 volunteers contribute a total of approximately 16,000 hours in the office and at parks and greenspaces throughout the region. Each of these donated hours lends vital support to Metro's mission of establishing a cooperative, regional system of parks, natural areas, trails and greenways for fish, wildlife and people.

At an appreciation dinner in November, volunteers were thanked for their generous service and the positive impact they make on our region's quality of life. A handful of volunteers were honored with special awards for their extraordinary efforts. Though they were selected from every corner of the volunteer program and do many different kinds of work, these remarkable volunteers

all have a few things in common – enthusiasm, commitment, and lots and lots of volunteer hours.

The award recipients have collectively contributed 3,600 hours to Metro (valued at almost \$60,000). The work of these outstanding volunteers reflects the diversity and the depth of the volunteer program. Among them, they have conducted education programs for hundreds of people in our parks and greenspaces, designed databases, entered and edited thousands of records, removed more than 35 dump trucks of invasive species, developed a regional trail assessment, trained other volunteer leaders, counted hundreds of bird species, measured water depth, led dozens of tours, advised department leadership and helped shape policies and procedures, removed trash from parks and cemeteries,

and reviewed and maintained the volunteer records that make all this reporting possible.

Congratulations to the award recipients and a big thank you to all of our volunteers for giving so much to regional parks and greenspaces. We appreciate the time, energy and enthusiasm you contribute.

Douglas Fir Award
for outstanding
restoration leadership
Jeff Locke

Red Fox Award
for outstanding educators
Georgette Beeson and
Therese Fisher

Osprey Award
for outstanding new
volunteers
Laura Whittemore and
Duane Meissner

Chinook Award
for outstanding
volunteer groups
Friends of Lone Fir
Cemetery, the Regional
Parks and Greenspaces
Advisory Committee and a
Portland State University
student planning team

**Parks and Visitor
Services Division
Award**
Troy Clark, Bob
Hungerford, George Smith
and Christina Walsh

**Administration Division
Award**
JoAnn Sanders

**Natural Resources
Division Award**
Northwest Service
Academy's "Madrone Team"

**Open Spaces Division
Award**
Syed Alam

**Planning and Education
Division Award**
Laila Hungerford and
Andrew Zachary

Two Metro staff members
received the
Director's Award
for excellence in staff
support of volunteers –
pioneer cemetery manager
Susie Boushá and Oxbow
naturalist Elisabeth Neely